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MULLEN Last call at BJ's? *p. 6* | **THEATER** Guthrie reboots *West Side Story* *p. 27* | **MUSIC** Piano visionary Javier Santiago *p. 30*

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HOBBIES: Hanging with friends, karaoke, salsa dancing

WHAT PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU: My dad played for the US national team during the World Cup.

WHAT YOU RATHER PAY SOMEONE TO DO THAN DO YOURSELF: Clean my house (if I could afford it)

FAVORITE MN EXPERIENCE/EVENT: UFC Games

IF YOU WEREN'T A BARTENDER, WHAT WOULD YOU BE: Be the singer of my dream punk band: Hot Syliva

WHAT IS YOUR ESTABLISHMENT KNOWN FOR: Being a soccer bar / offering eclectic experiences

BIGGEST PET PEEVE: Unpaid tabs

MOST ANNOYING THING SOMEONE CAN DO TO GET YOUR ATTENTION AT THE BAR: Talk to my back

BEST HANGOVER CURE: Hair of the dog

BARTENDER OF THE WEEK

Pati

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CITY PAGES

June 27-July 3, 2018

VOLUME 38 | NUMBER 1960

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Pack your basket with more than 50 of our favorite locally made ingredients ***By Emily Cassel***

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Lucy Hawthorne

Editorial
EDITOR Pete Kotz
MANAGING EDITOR Hannah Sayle
WEB EDITOR Jay Boller
NEWS EDITOR Mike Mullen
MUSIC EDITOR Keith Harris
FOOD EDITOR Emily Cassel
ARTS EDITOR Jessica Armbruster
STAFF WRITERS Susan Du, Hannah Jones
COPY CHIEF Bridgette Reinsmoen
PROOFREADER Bryan Miller
CLUBS EDITOR Erik Thompson
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Jerard Fagerberg, Jay Gabler, Tony Libera, Michael Madden, Erica Rivera, Sheila Regan
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Galen Fletcher, Alma Guzman, Lucy Hawthorne, E. Katie Holm, Shelly Mosman, Tony Nelson, Colin Michael Simmons

Art
ART DIRECTOR Emily Utne
LAYOUT EDITOR Holly Hilgenberg

Production
DESIGN MANAGER Dana Holmay
GRAPHIC DESIGNER Jackie Kilmer

Publisher
Mary Erickson

Advertising
SALES DIRECTOR Leah Parkinson
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Leah Carson, Kevin Lenhart, Nick Rupar, Brian Thunberg
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Jackson Dougherty, Ashley Farlow, Luke Gildemeister, Jacob Johnston
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CP Digital
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Marketing and Promotions
MARKETING DIRECTOR Holly Hunt
MARKETING COORDINATOR
Emma Engeldinger

Business and Administration
FINANCE MANAGER Bernadette Botoshe
STAFF ACCOUNTANT Du Nguyen Ho

City Pages
800 1st St. N., Ste. 300, Minneapolis, MN 55401
PHONE 612.375.1015 FAX 612.372.3737
E-MAIL adinfo@citypages.com
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TONY NELSON

THE STAT SHEET

54
Percentage of women who now lean Democrat, according to the Pew Research Center

68
Percentage of women ages 18-34 who lean Democrat

25
Percentage of rural Minnesotans who don't have access to broadband

80,000
Estimated U.S. deaths per decade if Donald Trump completes his plan to reduce clean air and water standards

"What's the point of all these new apartments and condos if there's nothing to do anymore because the city is being torn down?"

Reader Willow River Muscovitz responds to "Apartments to replace Grumpy's in downtown Minneapolis?" at citypages.com.

THE KU KLUX GOP

WHEN JENNIFER CARNAHAN became chairwoman of the Minnesota Republican Party, it was something akin to a rabbi being elected grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

Certainly not all Republicans are racist. But Donald Trump has unleashed a nativist faction that feels very much emboldened to get its full goober on. Carnahan, who's of Asian descent, has repeatedly been the victim of their friendly fire.

She says she's been called everything from a "chink" to a "hooker" by her own party members—even by members of the executive committee. Consider it the price of admission if you want to be a Republican while lacking the official melanin levels.

POPULAR STORIES
AT CITYPAGES.COM

2018 MINNESOTA STATE FAIR: Here are all the new foods

BJ'S, last Minneapolis strip club outside downtown, might lose 'adult entertainment' license

RICHARD PAINTER'S first campaign ad is here, and you really have to see it [VIDEO]

Dear Rolling Stone: Duluth is not **'TRUMP COUNTRY'**

ZOMBIE PUB CRAWL will be binge drinking in a different neighborhood this year

SPIES NOT US

ICE disinvited to Richfield's National Night Out

National Night Out in Richfield is normally for getting to know your neighbors, but this year's plans launched a stormy debate.

STAR TRIBUNE

National Night Out in Richfield is sort of like an amnesty period for shy neighbors. It's a block party under the auspices of fostering harmony between residents and police. If you've failed to introduce yourself to the folks next door, you've got another chance—usually over bean dip and a game of cornhole.

Melissa Burton regularly attends the annual neighborhood get-together. It's a chance to bond with neighbors. Occasionally, a cop or a politician shows up to gladhand.

Before the event, block captains get updates and materials from city officials—think lawn signs and brochures on city resources. But this year, Burton was surprised and a little alarmed to hear that Homeland Security and Immigration Customs Enforcement, better known as ICE, would be giving a presentation.

The reason Burton was so surprised is that ICE doesn't have a particularly good name among many Minnesotans, who see it as the federal agency in charge of breaking up families and deporting parents. That outcry rose to a fever pitch after thousands of children were taken from their parents and caged in separate facilities, with no apparent plan in place to reunite them.

"If the point of National Night Out is community-building, who contacted ICE?" Burton asks.

That prompted block captain Abby Hartman to take to the Richfield community Facebook page with an outraged post about the choice of speaker, calling it "propaganda about how they're keeping us safe."

"I'm not doing it anymore," she wrote. She said she told Richfield Police to get another speaker or she was out of the program. The whole thing felt like an attempt to recruit neighbors to spy on one another.

"I'm not watching my neighbors and don't care about their papers," she said.

A stream of comments followed. Some were angry, demanding an explanation of why police would invite a department that would "turn Neighborhood Watch" into "Watch Your Neighbors (And Turn Them In)." Others wanted to hear ICE out, or defended it as a part of national security, saying the mob-mentality accusations sounded like "Pitchfork nation."

The Richfield Police Department canceled the presentation and vowed to get another speaker.

According to the department's Facebook page, nobody reached out to ICE—ICE reached out to them. It said Homeland Security had "expressed interest in speaking to residents about the various programs the agency utilizes to enhance public safety."

Some of Burton's neighbors are immigrants. She wants them to feel safe too.

"Whether or not they have legal status, they will feel less welcome if we're skulking them out as potential criminals."

—HANNAH JONES

Twilight at BJ's

Last call at a last-of-its-kind Minneapolis strip club?

Mike Mullen

In his early 20s, Tim Wavinak drank at a bar called Mr. Harry's on West Broadway in Near North. Wavinak, now 58, kept darkening the door when Jerry Bjurstrom bought the place and changed the name to BJ's, a frills-free dive with topless dancers.

The dancers were the "main attraction" at first, but as time went on, Wavinak found he spent more time talking to the people around him than watching the stage. He quit drinking more than a decade ago, but kept in touch.

Two years ago, he was diagnosed with neck cancer, leaving him "basically laid up for all of 2016." One day he got a card with money, signed by the regulars and staff from BJ's. Wavinak wasn't surprised. Over the years, he'd contributed to a lot of cards.

"They were always really big on that," says Wavinak, who's been cancer-free for 18 months. "If somebody had illness, or lost a brother, or a parent, or lost a job—any time somebody needed a hug and a helping hand, basically."

Blue-collar regulars aren't the only ones who've always felt at home. "I love going there," says Tonya "Sweetpea" Konobeck, the Twin Cities' best-known burlesque dancer. "I call it the 'Cheers' of strip clubs."

Now the city's longest-running feel-good strip club sitcom might be canceled. Last week, a City Council committee approved an agreement to prohibit "adult entertainment" at BJ's starting in 2020. No one spoke up, for or against.

Owner Jerry Bjurstrom died in February, and his son Brian inherited the business. Brian is cagey in describing the perilous state of BJ's. He sees this as a "possible time to have the city leave us alone," and says his father spent the "last 10 years of his life" warding off a puritanical crackdown. From the city's perspective, the battle started long before.

In the mid-1980s, Minneapolis adopted a strict code confining nude performance to parts of downtown not close to housing, churches, or libraries. At the time, there were plenty of "nonconforming" businesses. But by the mid-2000s, only two remained: BJ's and the 22nd Avenue Station, better known as the "Double Deuce."

City planners tried to bully both out of business, claiming Minneapolis was obligated to shutter operations that led to crime, blight, or declining property values. In 2006, the Double Deuce took the pencil-pushers to court and won, with a judge saying the city invoked "shoddy, irrelevant studies" to target the holdouts.

The Deuce would later close of its own volition. BJ's held on, clinging to a slim patch of legal gray area as the only neighborhood titty bar in a city that, on paper, finds only downtown nudity appropriate. Complaints have been few.

"We've never had any problem with BJ's," says Rowena Holmes, a city crime prevention specialist. "The clientele are very quiet, and respectful. If you didn't know that business was there, and you were driving over North, you'd go right past it."

Unless you found yourself interested in the marquee's boast of a "SUNDAY MEAT RAFFLE."

The city's rigid zoning scheme is badly outdated. Thousands of people now live downtown, and the once-seedy "Warehouse District," home to several strip clubs, has been rebranded as the "North Loop," priding itself for the city's finest restaurants and swankiest lofts.

And if restricting nudity to a handful of big clubs was meant to keep citizens safe from breasts, whither the workers? An extensive city health review in 2017 found bodily fluids—the kind indicative of illicit sexual activity —in 11 out of 17 strip clubs, most often in private "VIP" areas, out of sight. Those rooms were also where strippers said they'd felt threatened or been assaulted.

BJ's, which has one room with three pool tables and another with a bar and a stage, doesn't offer anywhere to hide. And? "Semen was found at a number of clubs," says city environmental health director Dan Huff. "At BJ's, we did not find it."

On a recent night, laughter and backslaps resounded under a bed of smooth music and bottle clinks. BJ's felt like any other dimly lit dive, except for the woman ascending a brass pole like a fallen Christmas angel with thigh tattoos and thong underwear. She would leave with 100 percent of her tips, a rarity in an industry where women often "rent" space from club owners, who then seize a cut of the cash.

Brian Bjurstrom says he's still "exploring options," and has retained Dennis Johnson, the attorney who represented Pete Hafiz (owner of Deja Vu, Gay 90's, and other clubs) in an unsuccessful attempt to open a new spot downtown. Council members sided with a religious group, which said the club was too close to its church.

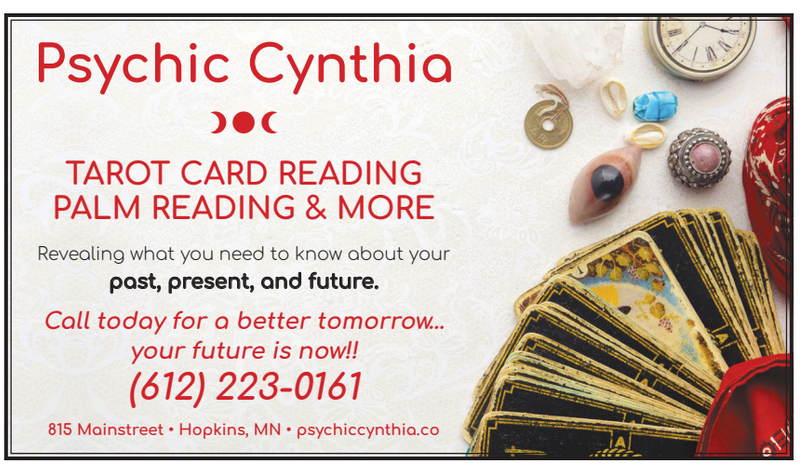
Johnson says he approached the city on Bjurstrom's behalf, with the offer of the 2020 deadline as a "compromise" both sides could live with. Council Member Lisa Goodman says she heard from city staff that Bjurstrom "wasn't coerced into it—it wasn't like he was in trouble." And Jeremiah Ellison, whose ward contains this endangered species of a bar, says Bjurstrom didn't contact him to fight on his behalf. "In my experience, when business owners need something, they call," says the councilman. "I haven't heard from BJ's."

Johnson says Brian's hand was forced after his father's death, which meant transferring a license instead of renewing an existing one. "That was the precipitating moment to look at the situation. They could've denied the transfer of license to Brian."

Bjurstrom says he's not interested in running BJ's as a bar, sans stripping. Aside from a lawsuit or a complete rewrite of the city's 30-year-old code—neither is in the offing—what other "options" are there? Surely, the city's thirsty developer class could think of a few things. Bjurstrom inherited not only the building, but several parcels of land surrounding it.

The situation makes it unnecessary to pass the hat. But if New Year's Eve 2019 really is last call for BJ's, the last friendly neighborhood nudie bar in Minneapolis—maybe ever—the least we could do is spring for a thank-you card.

mmullen@citypages.com
*Follow Mike on Twitter: @mikemullen_*



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BY EMILY CASSEL

Photos by Lucy Hawthorne

Much like eating a Reese's, there's really no wrong way to make a picnic.

Nestled under a tree with a good book, a baguette, and a wedge of cheese? That's a picnic. Bringing a good friend, a bottle of wine, and nothing else to the park? We'll count it.

But there is one way to picnic that's a little more satisfying than the rest: by filling your wicker basket with Minnesota-made ingredients. It's an easy way to support local butcher shops and grocers and small-batch-everything artisans—and, just as importantly, you get to enjoy top-tier food that's as fresh as it's ever going to be.

Here are some of our favorite ways to picnic in the Twin Cities this summer.

VEG OUT

Every vegan-friendly food in this spread will handily satisfy meat-eaters, too. Drop by the **Herbivorous Butcher** for sandwiches—both the Italian cold cut and turkey and dill havarti are available every day—and make sure to add a tub of jackfruit chicken to your order. It works on wraps and sandwiches and, in our case, atop a bed of buttery lettuce from **Urban Organics** in St. Paul. (Pictured here: the (Finally) Spring mix.) Drizzle

it with **Salad Girl's** vegan, non-GMO, soy- and cane sugar- and corn syrup-free organic dressing.

When snacking, get stacking. **Flackers Crackers** makes six flavors of organic flaxseed crackers—think tomato and basil, sea salt, cinnamon and currants—so you can mix and match, then pile them high with **Punk Rawk Lab Cheese**, **Holy Land Hummus**, apples with **Bee Free Honee**, or **Topos Ferments**. (The black radish, leek, kelp, and lemon from Topos also works as a delicious addition to your Herbivorous Butcher sandwiches.) A jar of **Gyst Pickles** and a few bags of **Barsy's Almonds** make for good munching, too.

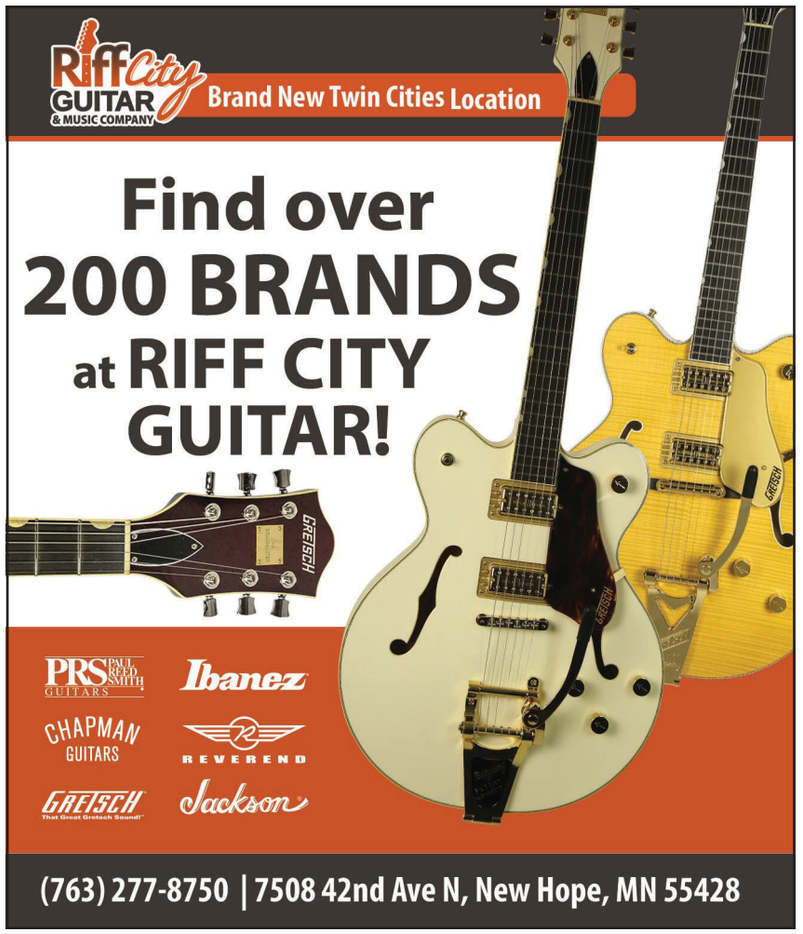
For dessert? **Puros Pies**—all-natural whipped-mousse pies in adorable single-serve cups. Wash it all down with **Double Dog Kombucha**, our current fave for small-batch 'booch in town. It packs a fizzy, flavorful punch to keep you from melting in the summer sun, but if you like a little heat, get the Pelé—a pleasantly spicy blend of pineapple, ginger, jalapeno, and cilantro.

GRILLIN' AND CHILLIN'

What better place to start an afternoon grillapalooza than **Lowry Hill Meats**? This year's City Pages Best Butcher Shop pick is the place to go for house-made burgers and brats. Slide those beefy wonders between a squishy **Kramarczuk's** brioche burger bun, available Friday through Sunday, now through September. And don't leave the Polish deli without picking up a bottle of their **Curry Ketchup**, a Berlin-style spread that's spiced perfection on a sausage—so good, we've known it to supplant Heinz in the households of even the proudest Pennsylvania natives.

It's a fact, after all, that the way you dress up your grill-marked meal is only slightly less essential than cooking it well in the first place. And dress it up you shall. Go smoky and savory with **Wee Willy's Barbecue Sauce**; let **Lucky's Honey Mustard** supply a sweet tang; or pick up a bottle of **Maazah Chutney**, made by a pair of Minneapolis sisters who promise it works on everything. They're not kidding—you might find yourself absentmindedly dipping chips in it. Minnesota's robust hot sauce scene gives you a bounty of fiery options to choose from, but when grilling, we go with three can't-miss pepper purveyors: **Hellraising Hot Sauce**, **Cry Baby Craig's**, and **Double Take Salsa**.

Snack-wise, **Old Dutch Potato Chips** are a classic, but you should consider adding in the not-so-classic gourmet, small-batch popcorn from **Maddy and Maize**. (The bourbon barbecue version goes well with grillables.) Some vegetables might not be the worst idea; you can always slice up a **Bushel Boy** tomato or two and toss a few **Famous Dave's** pickle spears on the side. For dessert—assuming you left room for dessert—**Rustica Bakery's** bittersweet chocolate cookies always hit the



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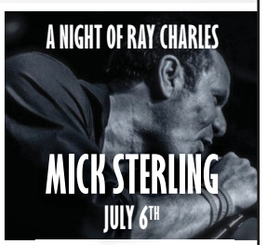
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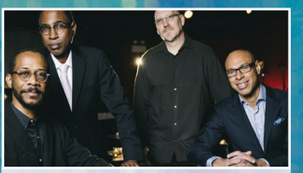

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sweet spot. And because of course you brought along your canine pal, who's been eyeing sizzling meats and whining all day, pick up a few packages of **Val's Brew Treats**—handmade from recycled spent grain right here in the Twin Cities.

DAYTIME DATE

The ideal romantic afternoon demands the ideal charcuterie plate. First up: **Patisserie 46** baguettes. Next, the meats, including **Red Table**'s Northeast-made speck, and of course, Big Chet's, that spicy fennel and garlic salami that's the stuff of cured-meat dreams. We sliced up a few **Prairie Pride** summer sausages to boot. On the cheese front, **Redhead Creamery's** Ridiculously Good Cheese Curds continue to do right by their name, and don't let the cave-aged garlic cheddar scare you off—it's garlicky, but not ruin-the-potential-for-romance garlicky.

For spreading, **Eichtens Cheese Shop** produces an array of gouda spreads: horseradish, hot pepper, herb, olive tapenade. Make a point to pick up some smoky, soft pork liver mousse from **St. Paul Meat Shop** before strolling down the street to **St. Paul Cheese Shop** for even more cheese. Add in **Serious Jam** preserves, too—what is "Blood Orange Whiskey Marmalade" if not the name of a romantic Rolling Stones ballad?—and sweeten the deal further with **Beez Kneez Honey.**

You'll also want **Isadore Nut Co.** seasoned nuts to snack on. "Cayenne Kick" really amps up the heat, but you can soothe your tastebuds with a few sips of **Golden Fig** Strawberry Limeade. (We recommend adding a splash of bubbly or a little bit of vodka.) When the platter's finished, peel away the pretty packages of a few **Mademoiselle Miel** honey bon bons and bars, savoring their sweetness as you stroll hand-in-hand.

BRING THE KIDS

There's a good chance the kids are too busy running around, swimming, catching bugs, etc. to think about anything more than quick breaks, which means snackable, packable finger foods are a good bet.

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CITY PAGES
BITE, SIP, AHHH
FOOD & DRINK NEWSLETTER
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We don't know a youngster who won't eat chips and salsa; skip the Tostitos and opt instead for **Way Better Snacks** and **Minnesalsa**. For a different dipping experience, carrot sticks dunked in **Jimmy's Dressing** make an equally quick and easy treat. Hard-boiled eggs are the ultimate fun fuel; these are from **Locally Laid Egg Company** in Wrenshall.

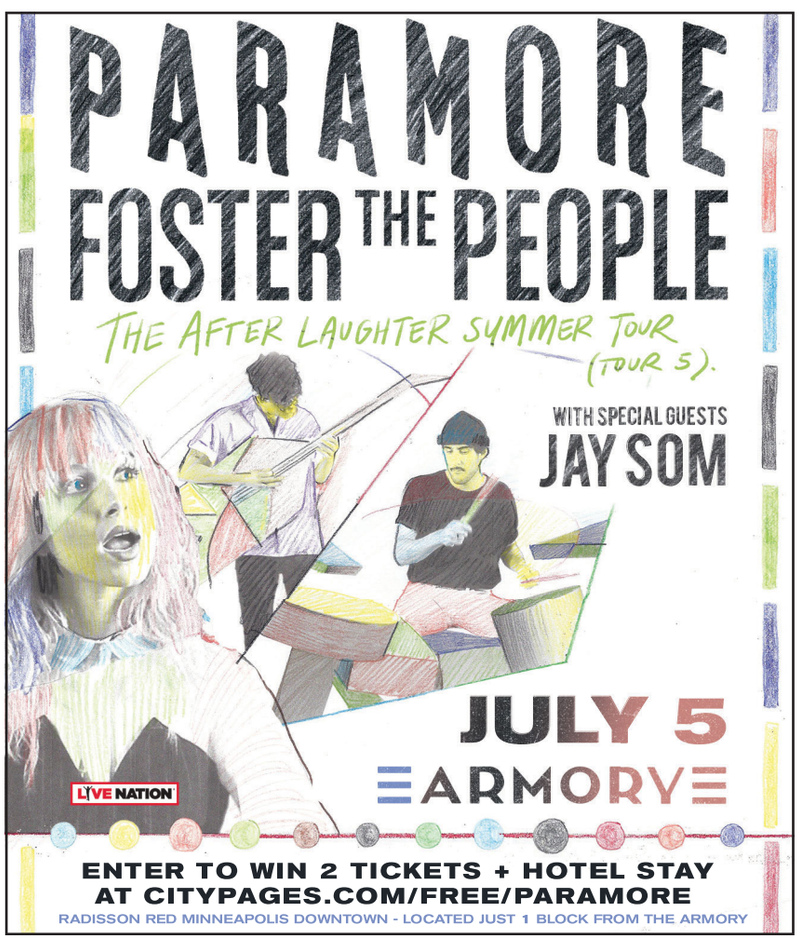
Something sweeter, you say? **Angie's Boom Chicka Pop** fills kids right up between lake swims and isn't so bad for them, either—even the "dark chocolaty drizzled sea salt kettle corn" has just 120 calories per serving. Or maybe you want something slightly more substantial, like peanut butter sandwiches with **Buddy's Nut Butter** and fruit on **Baker's Field** table bread. That the loaf is a texturally transcendent, naturally leavened marvel might be lost on the kids, but you deserve something for yourself, too. On that note: **Thumbs Cookies**. The poppable, tiny sweets are just the right size for little fingers; the flavors (rosemary pecan, peanut butter sea salt, Barb's cinnamon and sugar) make grownups happy too.

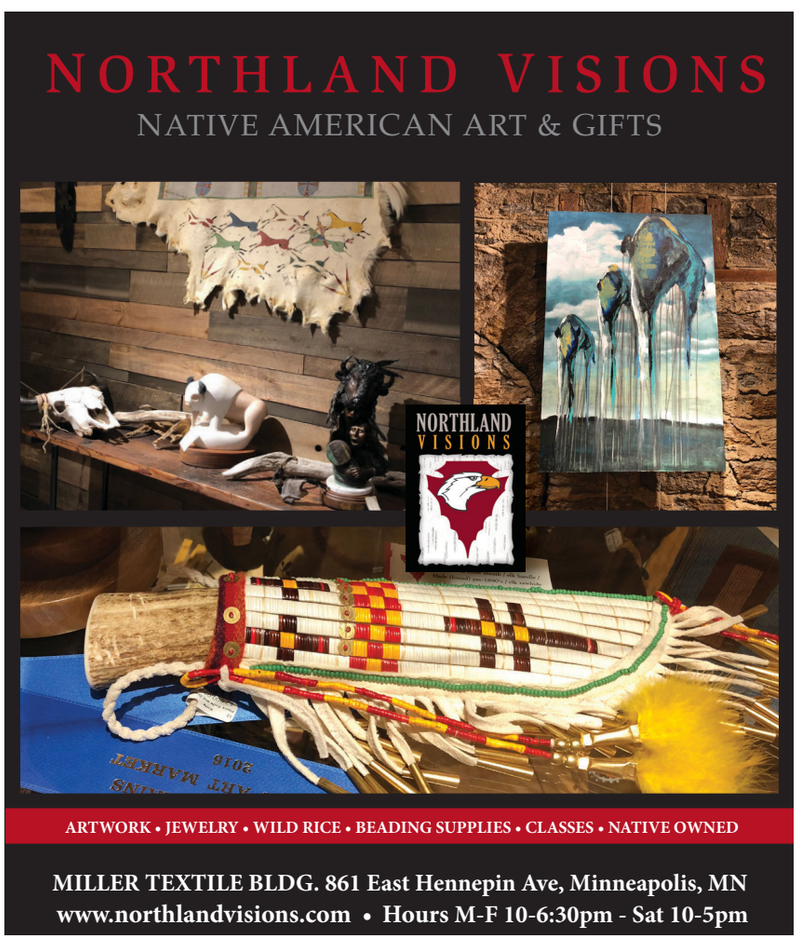
LAZY LUNCH

Not one for doing it yourself? Got a wicked wicker allergy? Keep it simple, and let the experts handle your picnic prep.

LOWRY HILL MEATS

So you want a beautiful meat and cheese platter, but don't have the time and/or





patience and/or knife skills to execute a truly Instagram-worthy one. The solution? A show-stopper from Lowry Hill Meats appropriately called "The Picnic Platter." Red Table Big Chet's Salami and speck? Check! Baker's Field Flour filone? Check! Artisan cheese selection? A beautiful assortment of pickled vegetables and mustard and olives and nuts and crackers? Check! This thing handily serves four to five, and promises at least ten times as many likes on social media. *1934 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-999-4200, lowryhillmeats.com*

ST. PAUL MEAT SHOP

This St. Paul staple has a pretty tight sandwich menu, but somehow it's still so hard to choose one. The Chacarero, is, in the words of shop manager Nick Mangigian, "dope," with thin-sliced pork, chimichurri sauce, comte cheese, and green beans on a Rose Street Patisserie baguette. He says the simple roast beef is—thanks to an assist from house-made horseradish labneh—their sneaky best-seller. But when push comes to shove, we're going for the Reuben. (Who can pass up a midday raclette?) Round it out with smoky potato salad and a snap pea salad that's crispy veggie perfection, and—what the hell?—throw in a pair of fabulously fudgy, fresh-baked brownies, with ultra-premium Valrhona Chocolate from France. *1674 Grand Ave., St. Paul; 651-698-2536, stpaulmeatshop.com*

CLANCEY'S MEATS AND FISH

We could write odes to Clancey's sammies and sides, the ideal accompaniment to an afternoon whiled away on Lake Harriet. At least one member of your picnic party must order the practically legendary roast beef, but don't sleep on the specials: pictured here, a refreshing yet hearty asparagus and brie baguette that's even vegetarian-friendly. Order a few colorful, refreshing sides—roasted beet salad, pickled ramps, pickled cauliflower—and you're set for an afternoon in the sun. Oh, and a little tip from Clancey's owner Kristin Tombers: Save the brine your veggies are swimming in for future use in salad dressings or "the best martini you've ever had." *4307 Upton Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-926-0222, clanceysmeats.com*

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6 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW, FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND EAST ISLES FARMERS MARKET

THE BAKERY

Debbie Dachis Gold has lived in the East Isles neighborhood for 22 years, during which she's raised vegetables in her flourishing urban garden and cooked up a storm.

A decade after she moved in, she started making dill pickles. Then she started growing her own cucumbers. "If you enjoy cooking as a hobby, the better and fresher the ingredients, the better the outcome," Dachis Gold says.

Why not bring fresh, local foods into her beloved neighborhood? She proposed the idea for a farmers market at a board meeting of the East Isles Residents Association (EIRA), of which she's a volunteer member and secretary. Fellow members were intrigued, so Dachis Gold did hours of research and took many meetings to make the market a reality.

Nine months later, she's the market's director, and she's looking forward to the June 28 opening day. Here's what to know before you go.

6. This is the first farmers market held in a Minneapolis city-owned park.
Yes, the Mall Park will finally host a neighborhood farmers market. Dachis Gold says that members of the Park Board were helpful and supportive of the market, and securing all the required permission only took about four to six weeks.

5. Say it with me: Pickle Booth.
What's a pickle booth, you ask? The name references Minnesota's Cottage Food Law (once called the "pickle bill"). The law allows those who bake, pickle, or can to sell their foods simply by registering and taking certain food safety precautions and training—no need to procure a permit. The East Isles Farmers Market Pickle Booth is open to any neighbor who has food to sell and $10 to spend to secure their spot. This is a perfect gateway for folks looking for an audience and feedback on their foods.

4. Vendors, musicians, and food trucks will rotate.
"Vendors are our everything," Dachis Gold says. She reports that they've confirmed about 35 food vendors who will rotate through just over 20 spots each week. More than half are women-owned businesses, and all are within a 100-mile radius. Participants include Hip Pop Gourmet Popcorn, Criollas Pastries, and the Minnesota Hmong Agriculture Cooperative. Each week will also feature two food trucks. Music will be acoustic and represent cultures from around the world: African drumming, Louisiana marching bands, and much more.

3. The market will host a special Dog Day of Summer event on August 9.
Dogs are always welcome at the market, but on August 9 it'll be especially pupper-y. "Dogs are in our DNA in this neighborhood, what with the East Isles Dog Park," says Dachis Gold. "On August 9, we'll have dog treats and water bowls and hot dogs and puppy dog tails from our beloved neighborhood shop, Isles Buns and Coffee. We have two all-natural dog treat vendors scheduled for the day... the rest is a surprise."

2. It really took a village.
Though Dachis Gold was one of the main drivers of the market, she's quick to acknowledge the many and varied contributions of her fellow EIRA board members, all the volunteers who dedicated their time, the members of the Park Board, politicians, and city employees for getting this market off the ground.

1. The first market day is June 28, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
The EIRA was very careful with scheduling. "We didn't want to step on people's toes," says Dachis Gold. The first market day will feature a seed planting ceremony attended by Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, Park Board Commissioner Meg Forney, District 4 Park Board Commissioner Jono Cowgill, District 3 Commissioner Marion Greene, Ward 7 Council member Lisa Goodman, and Senator D. Scott Dibble. So head over to the Mall every Thursday this summer for food, local produce, and terrific acoustic music.

East Isles Farmers Market, 1420 The Mall, between Hennepin and Humboldt Avenues in uptown Minneapolis, Thursdays, June 28 through October 4, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; eastislesfarmersmarket.com

—THERESA J. BECKHUSEN

A LIST

FRIDAY Rain Taxi hosts a summer book fair **P. 19** **SATURDAY** Republic gets sour for Funk Fest **P. 23** **SUNDAY** Awesome Paul Verhoeven trash at Trylon **P. 25**

WEDNESDAY 6.27

COMEDY

ANDY ERIKSON

ACME COMEDY CO.

If you're comedian Andy Erikson, the only thing better than coming back and headlining your hometown club is doing that gig with a friend. "My friends dragged me out to a comedy show, and one of the comedians was Andy," explains Joleen Lunzer, who will feature for Erikson at Acme. "I just loved what she brought to the stage and she was so funny and full of life." The two have since become best mates, and both live in Los Angeles where they work on, among other projects, the *Deal With It* podcast. "[The show] is a seriously funny conversation about mental and physical health conditions," says Lunzer, who draws on her background with mental health issues while Erikson discusses her struggles with Marfan Syndrome, a condition that affects the body's connective tissue as well as the heart. "It's been really cool to have people reach out and say, 'I never knew anyone else that has Marfan Syndrome,'" adds Erikson. "And then you find you have all these similar experiences." She also discusses that condition onstage. "I also talk about being awkward and different and have different stories about just trying to be myself." 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. $15-$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

THEATER

MURDER ON THE MISSISSIPPI

HARRIET ISLAND

Murder on the Mississippi is an interactive theatrical experience in which a river cruise becomes the setting of a cold-blooded killing. Co-sponsored by the Mississippi Park Connection and the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, the lighthearted event is presented by the morbid minds collectively known as Fearless Comedy Productions. Those booking passage are encouraged to dress in early-1940 style to match the transformative decor of the Jonathan Padelford Riverboat, all of which is meant to evoke the espionage-heavy atmosphere of World War II. Steeped in local lore and historical details, the show prompts passengers to embrace their inner spy in order to detect a murderous enemy agent within their midst. Participants will be drawn into the depths of the mystery as they're tasked with identifying the guilty party and recovering a cache of stolen top-secret plans. One's degree of commitment is discretionary, allowing all to enjoy the proceedings, whether engaged in criminal deduction or simply mingling over cocktails while savoring killer views of the Twin Cities. 7 p.m. $15-$18. 205 Dr. Justus Ohage Blvd., St. Paul; 651-291-8164. **—BRAD RICHASON**

America could learn a lot from these gentle creatures: Canterbury celebrates the Fourth of July with family fun.

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

THURSDAY 6.28

COMEDY

LEONARD OUZTS

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

"I've always been a fan of comedy," says Leonard Ouzts. "Everyone likes to laugh, and I was always good at making people laugh. So the two went together." A Virginia native, Ouzts has only had one other job: server at IHOP. "IHOP has steaks; if you don't have health insurance, turn the page," he tells audiences. These days, he's talking more about himself. "Every set I do now is about me now," he says. "It's all about trying to peel back the onion to understand who I am and how I think." He still tries to mix it up, though. "I do a little bit of everything. You just have to come see me. Some days I'll talk about Trump for 40 minutes and the next day I won't say anything about him—you never know." Ouzts lets the crowd lead his set. Speaking of, this may your last chance to catch Ouzts for a while, as his acting career has taken off. After this run of shows, he'll begin production on the TV series *Abby's*, set to debut on NBC in January next year. 16+. 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday. $23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

CATS

CATS OF THE WEDGE TOUR: THE HUNT FOR MR. PICKLES

MUELLER PARK

This is a weird one, but it sounds delightfully strange. Anyone who takes a walk through south Minneapolis on a nice day will be able to spot the cats. There are cats who hang out on roofs, who gaze at us from windows, who cautiously watch us from the steps of their home, and the ones who walk up to us, demanding love should we try to pass them on the sidewalk. This Thursday, self-proclaimed neighborhood historian Chet Wedgely (founder of wedgelive.com) will take people through the Wedge neighborhood for a little cat sight-seeing. Will they be out and about? Will you spot them watching you? You'll have to take the tour to find out; cats are fickle, after all. The first 25 guests to arrive for the tour will receive a commemorative button. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. 2500 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

Party in the sky at the Walker.

ANNA GULBRANDSEN, COURTESY WALKER ART CENTER

ART/PARTY

TERRACE THURSDAYS: SUMMER MUSES

WALKER ART CENTER

It's not summertime in Minnesota without a rooftop party. This Thursday, the Walker Art Center's weekly Thursday-evening event gets in on that tradition. In addition to free admission to the museum's galleries downstairs, there'll be a variety of fun hosted on the terrace. Check out downtown views while listening to jazzy lounge pop from Nadine, dance bangers from City Counsellor, and Hello Psychaleppo's mashup of traditional Middle Eastern beats, dubstep, electro, and trip-hop. There will be other performances and hands-on art activities throughout the evening, the drinks will flow from the cash bar, and artsy skyline mini-golf will be open (but make sure to make reservations). 5 to 10 p.m. Free. 725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

TALK

THE VOICES OF ST. PAUL'S IMMIGRANT YOUTH

EAST SIDE FREEDOM LIBRARY

Young writers will share their experiences and stories at this talk and reading, titled "The Voices of St. Paul's Immigrant Youth." The event features teens who participated in a residency with the nonprofit Green Card Voices at St. Paul's LEAP school last year. The students worked with their teacher and Hamline University graduate students to create a book of essays and online video narratives. The collection, *Green Card Youth Voices*, was published last summer, and was a finalist for the Midwest Book Awards. It showcased the work of 30 young people from 14 countries. This week's reading at the East Side Freedom Library will feature three individuals who were part of the project: Karen writer Jae Nay Htoo, Djibouti writer Nima Ahmed, and Hmong writer Anta Thosaengsiri. They'll share their stories of migration, family, and personal experience. 7 p.m. Free. 1105 Greenbrier St., St. Paul; 651-230-3294. **—SHEILA REGAN**

FRIDAY 6.29

BOOKS

PRINT MATTERS

MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS

You'll have to wait until fall for the beloved annual Twin Cities Book Festival. In the meantime, Print Matters will give you your ink fix. The two-day festival, also at the State Fairgrounds and also organized by Rain Taxi, will offer plenty of good summer reads, whether you prefer a soapy paperback by the pool or an ancient philosophical work with a glass of wine on your patio. Explore some trashy pulp fiction, page through some graphic novels, discover a first-edition collectible, or pick up something for the kids. The event will also include underground publications, vintage maps and historical pieces, and even a vinyl section for music lovers. Have a poet write a piece for you using Tarot cards, get an original coaster printed out by an artist, and listen to live music from Paul Metzger, Jon Rodine, and Dylan Hicks. Find more info at www.raintaxi.com/print-matters-book-fair. 3 to 10 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 ▶

FIRST AVENUE & 7th St entry

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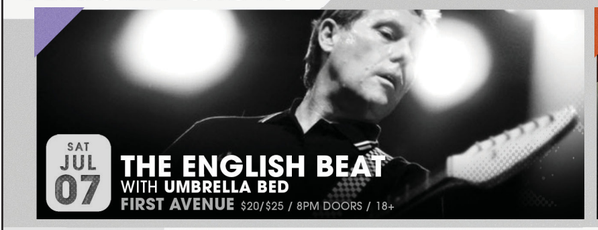
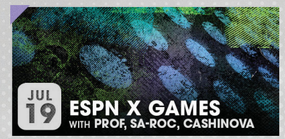
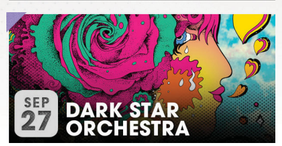
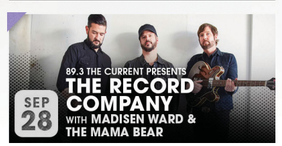


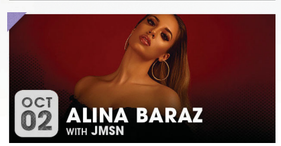
UP NEXT FIRST AVENUE MAINROOM

BEST DANCE CLUB (READER'S CHOICE), BEST CONCERT VENUE (READER'S CHOICE) - CITY PAGES 2018









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UP NEXT PALACE THEATRE

JUL 25 — **MY BLOODY VALENTINE**

AUG 01 — **BEN HARPER & CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE**

AUG 11 — **PUNCH BROTHERS**
W/ MADISON CUNNINGHAM

AUG 23 — **NEW ORDER**

SEP 06 — **NEKO CASE**
W/ THAO (of THE GET DOWN STAY DOWN)

SEP 07 — **AN EVENING WITH DAWES: PASSWORDS TOUR**

UP NEXT 7TH ST ENTRY

BEST CONCERT VENUE - CITY PAGES 2018

SUNFLOWER BEAN
W/ PUBLIC ACCESS T.V.
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

RUBY BOOTS AND **JADE JACKSON**
THURSDAY, JUNE 28

THE SOUL REBELS
W/ HENNEPIN COUNTY MILLIONAIRES CLUB
FRIDAY, JUNE 29

POST ANIMAL
W/ SLOW PULP, STANLEY
SATURDAY, JUNE 30

PSALM ONE
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
W/ OSSA MOON, METASOTA, AND MORE
SUNDAY, JULY 1

PEKING DUK
THE WASTED TOUR
W/ *repeat repeat
MONDAY, JULY 2

LONGSHOT AND **LAZERBEAK**
'PARADES' ALBUM RELEASE PARTY
W/ HOLIDAE, ANGEL DAVANPORT, AND MORE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

IMMERSION
(COLIN NEWMAN OF WIRE AND MALKA SPIGEL OF MINIMAL COMPACT)
W/ FLAVOR CRYSTALS
THURSDAY, JULY 5

UP NEXT TURF CLUB

THE BODY
W/ FALSE, LINGUA IGNOTA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

TRACYANNE & DANNY
(OF CAMERA OBSCURA AND CRYBABY)
W/ LOMELDA
THURSDAY, JUNE 28

MATTHEW SWEET
"TOMORROW'S DAUGHTER TOUR"
W/ LOWRAY
FRIDAY, JUNE 29

JAKE ROSE
W/ JAKE JONES (SOLO)
SATURDAY, JUNE 30

JEREMY ENIGK
'RETURN OF THE FROG QUEEN' ANNIVERSARY TOUR
W/ CHRIS STAPLES
SUNDAY, JULY 1

DARLINGSIDE
W/ THE LOWLAND LAKERS
THURSDAY, JULY 5

THEM COULEE BOYS
W/ BUFFALO GOSPEL, HUMBIRD
FRIDAY, JULY 6

THE FREDDY JONES BAND
W/ DREAM OF THE WILD
SATURDAY, JULY 7

UP NEXT OTHER VENUES

MICHAEL CHE
PANTAGES THEATRE
THURSDAY, JULY 12

SERENA RYDER
FINE LINE
TUESDAY, JULY 24

LADY PARTS JUSTICE LEAGUE'S VAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR 2018
HOSTED BY THE DAILY SHOW CO-CREATOR LIZZ WINSTEAD
THE CEDAR
THURSDAY, JULY 26

DEAFHEAVEN
W/ DRAB MAJESTY, UNIFORM
THE CEDAR
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

TONI ROMITI
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL
THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

SLEIGH BELLS
W/ TORRES
FINE LIEN
THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

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CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ▶

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SATURDAY 6.30

FESTIVAL

FUNK FEST 2018

REPUBLIC SEVEN CORNERS

No, this isn't your neighborhood bar's homage to funk music. The annual Funk Fest is Republic's celebration of Minnesota-made sour beer. The event spotlights 10 local breweries—including Fair State, Steel Toe, Indeed, Fulton, and Bent—with a menu of over 30 hard-to-find wild, tart, and funk-flavored beers. While it is a festival, the concept is similar to a tap takeover. Customers don't need a ticket to attend. They can simply buy a pint or special flight. Imbibers will be rewarded for their purchases; each beer earns them a raffle ticket with the chance to win rare bottles and merchandise. Giveaway highlights include Cantillon Kriek and Fonteinen Oude Geuze. Happy hour prices apply from 4 to 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. to midnight, scoring you $2 off the menu price during those hours. 2 p.m. to midnight. 221 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-6146. —LOREN GREEN

ART/MUSEUM

TIA KEO: THREE SIXTY FIVE

AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

Tia Salmela Keobounpheng is the co-founder of silvercocoon, a design company that has morphed primarily into Keobounpheng's jewelry company. Now her bold, modern, laser-cut earrings, pins, and necklaces can be found in museums around the world. But she's also a sculptor, and works across disciplines including residential and interior design. One of her most recent projects involved working for 365 days on explorations of creativity. The results of that practice, under the name Tia Keo, are on view in this exhibition. Her vibrant, engaging work celebrates the life of an artist, one day at a time. There will be an artist's reception from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 11. Free with museum admission. 2600 Park Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-871-4907. **Through August 5** —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

FESTIVAL/SCREENING

ADULT SWIM ON THE GREEN

THE COMMONS

Williams Street is Adult Swim's in-house production company. Over the years, they have had a hand in bringing shows like *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*, *Space Ghost Coast to Coast*, *The Venture Bros.*, *Rick and Morty*, and *Tim and Eric Awesome Show, Great Job!* to the TVs of late-night stoners, insomniacs, and people who like their cartoons a little weird. This summer, you'll be able to celebrate their many hits and obscure failures at Adult Swim on the Green. The lawn festival will take place on the Commons, that grassy area right by U.S. Bank Stadium. Once the sun sets, Adult Swim will share a mix of grown-up animated stuff, including unaired pilots and episodes, cut scenes, sneak peeks of upcoming seasons, deep cuts, and special episodes. Folks are encouraged to geek out and dress up as their fave characters; we're expecting to see a few Pickle Ricks from *Rick and Morty* this year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 ▶

CALEB TIMMERMAN

PARTY

ANNUAL VAMPIRE'S BALL

FIRST AVENUE

Back for a second year, the annual Vampire's Ball encourages the dark creatures of the Minnesota night to come out and party. Show off your most menacing dance moves as Pirate Twins spin tunes. The duo is composed of Scary Lady Sarah, who is founder of Nocturna, the longest-running (almost 30 years!) goth night in North America, and William Faith, a former member of Christian Death and a founding member of Faith & the Muse. Aerialists and burlesque performers will add to the entertainment, as will a fetish fashion show, a virtual reality torture chamber, and artist pop-up booths. Dress in your bloody best; there will be a vampire costume contest. Or take your maiden voyage into the dark arts with an onsite vampire makeover. 18+. 8 p.m. $10/$12 at the door. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

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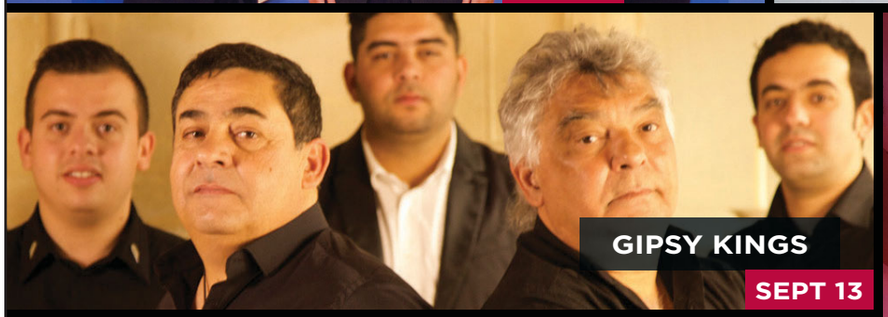

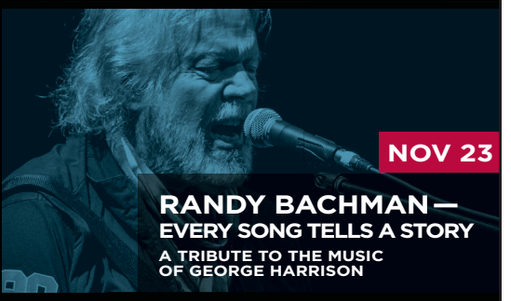

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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ▶

Before they fire up the projector, there will be fun as the sun goes down, with a beer and wine garden, local vendors selling fandom gear, lawn games like giant checkers and corn hole, and some official merch you can get before it sells out online in two seconds flat. You need to be 18 or over to attend this happening, and while VIP tickets were gone in the blink of an eye, $10 general admission passes (which score you free pop and popcorn) are still up for purchase on the official event website, adultswimonthegreentour.frontgatetickets.com. 6 to 10 p.m. $10/$15 at the gate. 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

Adult Swim's traveling cartoon party comes to Minneapolis.

COURTESY OF ADULT SWIM

FESTIVAL

SOMALI INDEPENDENCE DAY

LAKE STREET

Celebrate the vibrant Twin Cities Somali community at the annual Somali Independence Day festival, part of Somali Week taking place in various locations across Minneapolis and St. Paul. Organized by Ka Joog, the festival showcases Somali culture through food, sports, arts, and entertainment. Meet farm animals, take in musical acts and performances, and participate in arts activities. The event takes place on Lake Street, and welcomes both Somali and non-Somali folks. Some highlights include a traditional hut and other objects on display from the Somali Museum of Minnesota, contemporary art from Soomaal House of Art, henna stations, and a clinic offering free health screenings. There's also a soccer tournament, a mobile library, face painting, and carnival games to discover. For a complete schedule of events, visit somaliweek.org. 1 to 8 p.m. Free. Lake Street, from Blaisdell to Stevens Avenues, Minneapolis. **—SHEILA REGAN**

Minnesotans honor Somali Independence Day.

COURTESY OF EVENT ORGANIZERS

SUNDAY 7.1

FILM

PAUL VERHOEVEN IN EXILE: THE HOLLYWOOD YEARS

TRYLON CINEMA

Dutch filmmaker Paul Verhoeven crafted some of the most zeitgeist-defining blockbusters of the 1980s and '90s. This July, Trylon presents five selections from Verhoeven, whose films' explicit depictions of sex and violence served a satiric purpose. The series begins with *Total Recall* (1990), a gonzo sci-fi odyssey in which an everyman (played with knowing incongruity by Arnold Schwarzenegger) comes to suspect that his conception of existence has been artificially created. Camp classic *Showgirls* (1995) offers the delightfully lurid drama of a dancer who aspires to become a top performer in Las Vegas. As much a prescient critique of corruptive corporate influence as it is a thrilling action classic, *Robocop* (1987) follows a critically injured officer reanimated as an unrelenting enforcer of law and order. *Basic Instinct* (1992) made a star of Sharon Stone, whose femme fatale beguiles Michael Douglas' burned-out detective with lavishly filmed carnality. Series ender *Starship Troopers* (1997) is signature Verhoeven, amplifying the xenophobia of the original novel in the service of subverting those very same impulses—all in the context of waging war against monstrous alien insects. 7:30 p.m. Sundays (6:30 p.m. Sunday, July 8); 7 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays; 9:15 p.m. July 2-3, 16-17; 9:30 p.m. July 9-10, 23-24, 30-31. $8. 3258 Minnehaha Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-424-5468. **Through July 31 —BRAD RICHASON**

TUESDAY 7.3

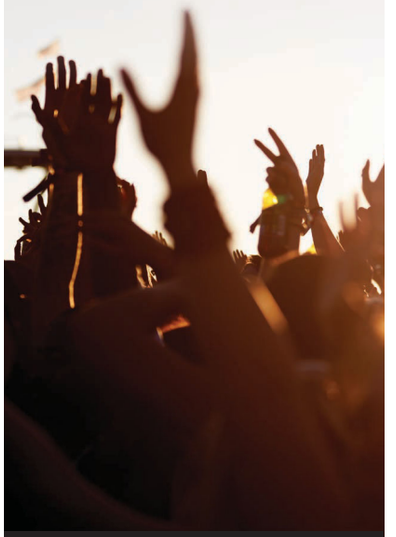
HOLIDAY

FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVITIES

CANTERBURY PARK

Each year, Canterbury Park ramps up activities for the Fourth of July. Things kick off on Tuesday, when in addition to racing there will be free pony rides for kids, face painting, and a petting zoo. A carnival will feature games and fair food. Rock Godz provide live music, and the evening will conclude with a large fireworks show. Festivities continue on Wednesday with a hot dog eating contest, a kids' parade, and the freakin' adorable corgi race. 4 to 11 p.m. Tuesday; 12:45 to 6 p.m. Wednesday. $8. 1100 Canterbury Ave. S., Shakopee; 952-445-7223. **Through Wednesday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

WHEN YOU GO TO A HORSE RACE AND A CONCERT BREAKS OUT.



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FILM

BACK IN ACTION

After 14 years, the Incredibles return

Your heroes return with stunning animation and top-notch fight scenes—including one with a raccoon.

COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY PICTURES

BY TONY LIBERA

The first *Incredibles* is a top-five Pixar movie and arguably one of the best superhero movies ever made. The latter point didn't mean much in 2004, but after a decade of Marvel releases and *The Dark Knight*, *The Incredibles* still holds its own.

It goes without saying that mastermind Brad Bird's sequel had a lot to live up to—and the 14-year wait only upped the hype.

So how does *Incredibles 2* stack up?

Though the story itself is a bit predictable, Bird's characters do more than enough to keep us invested and entertained.

The film opens where the original ended, with the Parr clan off to do battle with the nefarious Underminer. After failing to stop the bad guy and causing no small amount of property damage, the superfamily finds itself in hot water with the law. They manage to get off without too much issue, but their old pal Rick Dicker (Jonathan Banks) informs the Parrs that the Super Relocation Program is coming to an end, and drops them off at a motel. Dejected, Bob (Craig T. Nelson) and Helen (Holly Hunter) wonder what's next. Then Frozone (Samuel L. Jackson) shows up.

The iceman cometh to discuss a proposal from telecom big shot Winston Deavor (Bob Odenkirk). You'd think given the family's recent run-in with Syndrome that Bob and Helen would be wary of taking jobs from wealthy benefactors they don't know, but nope. Deavor and his sister Evelyn (Catherine Keener) pitch a way to get public opinion back on the Supers' side. Helen leaps at the opportunity, leaving Bob to do a Mr. Mom routine with the kids.

Things predictably go haywire at home, as Bob finds Violet's boy problems as confusing as Dash's math homework. And the revelation of Jack-Jack's various powers only pushes the Parr patriarch closer to his wits' end. Meanwhile Helen finds herself beleaguered by a new supervillain called Screenslaver, a hypnotic baddie who derides peoples's fascination with technology while using it to control their minds.

It doesn't take a super-sleuth to figure out the mystery behind Screenslaver's mask, which wouldn't be so disappointing in any other kids' movie, but feels like a letdown from Bird and Pixar. With plot something of a formality here, the movie leans on stunning animation, top-notch fight scenes (the standout being Jack-Jack's battle with a raccoon), and complex thematic underpinnings to keep this thing afloat. And that's where *Incredibles 2* gets complicated.

Bird has been accused of employing Ayn Randian subtext in the past, a criticism at which the writer-director perhaps rightfully laughs. If there's a tone of Objectivism and/or Libertarianism, it's a trait found across the superhero genre, and it would be unfair to point a finger at Bird with Batman lurking in the shadows. That said, Bird does touch on some topics that are a bit troubling through the prism of current events.

Trumpists and Libertarians will delight in a story where the media is used for mind control and the government is a meddling force that stops exceptional individuals from achieving their true potential.Others may not find *Incredibles 2* to be quite the escapist popcorn flick they were hoping for.

It's hard to say whether this is shortsighted or a stroke of genius. Screenslaver's criticisms of the culture at large and knocks on the government do resonate, which makes for some decent character development and shades-of-gray nuance. But is it really the message we need right now?

INCREDIBLES 2
directed by Brad Bird
area theaters, now open

THEATER

WEST SIDE STORY

The Guthrie adds depth to the beloved musical

T CHARLES ERICKSON

BY JAY GABLER

WEST SIDE STORY
Guthrie Theater
818 S. Second St., Minneapolis
Through August 26; 612-377-2224

West Side Story without fingersnaps? The concept seems almost unthinkable—like *Hair* without nudity. Director Joseph Haj and choreographer Maija García have done it, though: extracted the classic musical from the mid-century trappings of its justly lauded but now overfamiliar Jerome Robbins production. The result is a revelation.

While the Guthrie Theater's current *West Side Story* is still set in Manhattan circa 1957, Haj doesn't treat it like a period piece. The show unfolds on the Wurtele Thrust Stage, which is apt for a production that reaches out to draw connections with our 21st-century world. In the process, Haj finds rich new depths in this towering masterwork.

In a production that elevates story and character over stage spectacle, there is one grand gesture, and it's apparent as soon as you step into the theater. The head and torch of a massive inverted Statue of Liberty extend down from the flyspace, looming over Mark Hartman's orchestra like a missile about to strike. The statue will disappear before long, returning for a devastating conclusion in which Lady Liberty's underlit face evokes America's cruelly broken promises.

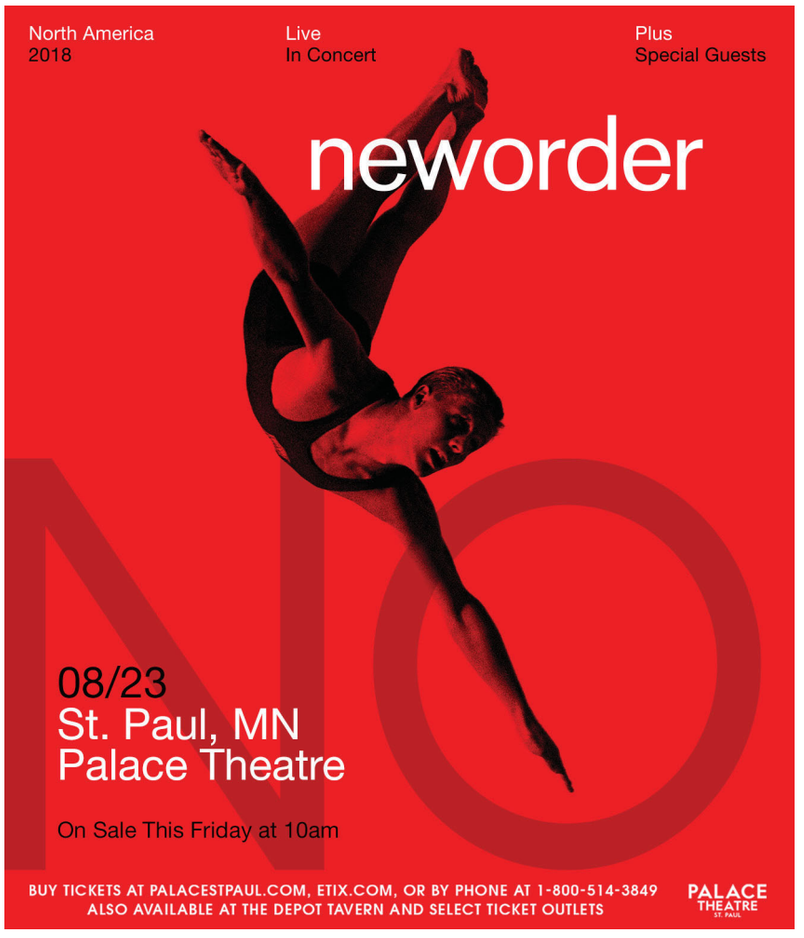
In the meantime, Christopher Acebo's scenic design hangs back to more subtly accentuate the intense drama that plays out once Hartman raises his baton over Leonard Bernstein's gorgeously jagged score. The hungry and committed cast, including reliable Guthrie regulars as well as a number of exceptional newcomers, bring a combustible yet humane energy to the escalating rivalry between two street gangs.

Mia Pinero projects a confident intelligence as Maria, who falls for Marc Koeck's Tony. Koeck has a soft-edged, heroic mien, and his rapport with Pinero is completely endearing.

In Jen Caprio's costumes the rest of the Jets and the Sharks are also as visually distinctive as action figures, which speaks to the reimagined production's strength: It's still highly stylized, but differently, thrillingly so. García's movement exults in the jazzy score, and sends bodies careening with freshly visceral abandon. The uniformly superb singing is alive to the characters' conflicted emotions, as well as a celebration of the unique alchemy between Bernstein and lyricist Stephen Sondheim.

Haj has cast the Sharks as a Latinx gang, the Jets as "an anthology of what it means to be 'American,'" per playwright Arthur Laurents' description.

Of the shows Haj has personally helmed since coming to lead the Guthrie, some of which have been very good, none have evinced such sweeping vision and sublime execution. Bradley King's transcendent lighting illuminates a world of joyful dance, dark comedy, and profound tragedy: an experience of truly rare power.



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FESTIVAL FASHION Music fans rock their style at Rock the Garden on June 16. **BY AMY GEE**

PRIYANKA MOHAN

31, UX ANALYST AT UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

What are you wearing?
Shirt from Target, skirt from PacSun, Kate Spade shoes, sunglasses from Ragstock.

Describe your style:
Combination of neutrals and giant pops of colors and patterns. I like different pieces that add a surprise factor.

Best find for under $20:
A pair of overalls from Ragstock.

Summer style tip:
Wear something you feel confident and comfortable in.

LIZZ DRENKOW

26, WORKS AT THE WEDGE DELI

What are you wearing?
Earrings, shirt, and shorts from Rewind, Candie's sunglasses, Dr. Martens boots, bag from Como Zoo.

Describe your style:
Quirky vintage Zooey Deschanel.

Best find for under $20:
A pair of bright yellow hot pants from Rewind.

Current style crush:
Always Zooey, she's so dang cute. My newest style crush is Nikki Lane.

MOOK DIPRIMA

22, WAITRESS, ARTIST

What are you wearing?
Forever 21 top, H&M pants, earrings from Thailand, shoes from Macy's.

Describe your style:
Comfortable, very personal. It's how I express myself.

Current style crush:
Anh Wisle.

Summer style tip:
Wear something that won't give you bad tan lines.

HAYLEY MANLEY

22, GRAD STUDENT

What are you wearing?
Sheln two-piece set, earrings from Buffalo Exchange, Planned Parenthood bandana, necklaces from Etsy and Greece.

Describe your style:
Soft punk alternative.

Best find for under $20:
A midi flowy skirt from Plato's Closet that I wear a lot.

Summer style tip:
Wear something you can't see sweat through. Black is always good, even in the summer.

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PHOENIX RISING

Local jazz pianist and beatmaker Javier Santiago is going places

BY BRITT ROBSON

Javier Santiago doesn't dazzle you. His keyboard work envelops and beguiles, immersing you in resonant notes that develop into resonant phrases, the way an ESL teacher goes about communicating the nuances of a new language.

It happened the other night at the Black Dog Cafe in St. Paul, when Santiago, playing in the ensemble the Ruckus, took a Fender Rhodes solo on "Naima," John Coltrane's lovely tribute to his first wife. The left hand comped while the right one roamed, gently piling a sonic bedding of feathers and silk.

"I am honored to have Javier Santiago with me," drummer and bandleader Rodney "Ruckus" Rocques said to the audience afterward. "Minnesota, don't wait for someone big to take him away from you. You see people get famous and when it happens it goes really fast. Take care of your own."

On Friday, Santiago will release *Phoenix*, his first disc on a national label (Ropeadope). It's undergirded by Santiago's fellow alumni from the Brubeck Institute in Berkeley and spangled with take-notice guest stars like trumpeter Nicholas Payton, guitarist Nir Felder, saxophonist Dayna Stephens, and flugelhornist John Raymond.

Like Santiago himself, the music on *Phoenix* is hard to pigeonhole. He has an impeccable jazz pedigree—both his parents and his paternal grandparents met in jazz clubs, and his father, Mac Santiago, is a well-respected local percussionist who operates the Minneapolis venue Jazz Central. But Javier fell in love with punk and hip-hop growing up in the '90s. His Bandcamp page contains more than a half-dozen albums of beats and loops he began making in high school.

"For at least a couple of the tunes on *Phoenix*, we played along to some of those original beats in the studio," Santiago revealed over a beer at a south Minneapolis eatery earlier this month. "So I had a few things already mapped out sonically that way." More broadly, he notes that "a lot of the sampling on hip-hop records is mainly from jazz—fusion and funk. So it was almost like a gateway into jazz for me."

Meanwhile, his father, Mac, was locking down his son's jazz bona fides from an early age. Mac, whose parents are Puerto Rican, taught Javier the chords to "La Bamba" when he was four. At seven Javier was enrolled in the MacPhail School of Music. By 10, he was picking up chord changes and figuring out how to improvise. Then came lessons with top local pros like Bobby Peterson, Laura Caviani, and Tanner Taylor.

High school graduation loomed. "I was playing a lot of jazz but also playing a lot of beats and trying to figure out what I was going to do," Javier said. "Obviously it would be music but I wasn't the greatest student in school. When I found out about the Brubeck Institute it was a no-brainer—if you got in it was free tuition, room, and board. My friend Chris Smith had just gotten in that year so I thought it might be a possibility, and I went for it."

The odds were steep. The Brubeck Institute enrolls only five or six students at a time; they receive individual instruction but also play and even tour as an ensemble. Just one player per instrument is accepted, so only one slot for a pianist was available.

Javier auditioned at Yoshi's, the iconic Oakland jazz spot near the Institute's Berkeley locale, and Dave Brubeck himself was the arbiter. According to proud papa Mac Santiago, the institute's program coordinator called him and revealed that while Javier was among the first pianists to audition, Dave Brubeck immediately announced, "that's our guy" when he was finished playing. Not a bad impression to make at age 17.

Although Santiago went on to attend the Betty Carter Institute in Washington, D.C., and graduate from the New School of Music while hustling for gigs around New York City, the two years at the Brubeck Institute remain the most important of his career. Santiago chose to record the album out in Berkeley in September 2016, and the three other band members who make up the core quartet with Santiago on *Phoenix* are all Brubeck Institute alumni.

The most important of these was drummer Corey Fonville, who had an intimate appreciation of the nexus of hip-hop, electronics, and jazz that Santiago was after. For example, "When Javy came in wanting to put synth patches on an acoustic piano, I thought of [the late Marsalis band pianist] Kenny Kirkland, who was doing it back when it was taboo," Fonville said.

Fonville also reminded Santiago that he used to play with guitarist Nir Felder in John Raymond's band in New York, and the four songs Felder contributed to *Phoenix* are among the highlights of the disc. Fonville also played in Nicholas Payton's band, knew that Payton was a fan of Santiago from the time when the trumpeter was a

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BLUPRINT

guest teacher at Brubeck, and had Santiago successfully recruit Payton for his glorious solos on *Phoenix*'s final song, "Alive."

"Javy and I have a musical kinship. I was the right person to be around this project," Fonville says. Santiago seconds the notion and calls Fonville's band, Butcher Brown, his favorite new ensemble.

The sessions produced 16 songs, all Santiago originals. He spent the next 16 months culling it down to eight, continually buffering and overdubbing the mix, first in Berkeley, then Brooklyn, and finally Minneapolis. "I'd spent hours and hours—and days and days—on one detail," he says with a sad shake of the head. "Some things I did I went back and totally trashed."

But sweat equity comes through in the billowing density of the mix, especially on the title track and "Tomorrow." Santiago was elated it when I called *Phoenix* a "mushroom record."

"It's totally a mushroom record! And I think that's how people—I mean, I want people to interpret it how they want—but I want to say don't play this at a party. It's not a dance thing. I like to make things sound orchestral, so it is definitely more like a road-trip record. Like, take a journey with it." CP

CRITICS' PICKS

WEEDEATER

SKYWAY THEATRE, THURSDAY 6.28

North Carolina trio Weedeater began as the side project of Buzzoven member Dave "Dixie" Collins, and it ultimately became his primary band, influencing the sludge and stoner metal subgenres over the past 20 years. After reissuing their earlier albums, renewing public interest in the band, they released *Goliathan* in 2015, a Southern-fried, supremely fuzzy refinement of their sound, complete with twisted humor. With Zeke and Sierra. *18+. 7:30 p.m. $20. 711 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-333-6100.* —MICHAEL MADDEN

CODE ORANGE

AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL, FRIDAY 6.29

Earlier this year, Pittsburgh metalcore crew Code Orange were unlikely Grammy nominees, but not undeserving ones. After two underground albums and a million comparisons to bands like Converge (whose Kurt Ballou produced those LPs), the band graduated to Roadrunner Records ahead of last year's *Forever*. The consistently crushing breakthrough record features refreshing melodic support from guitarist and backing singer Reba Meyers. With Twitching Tongues, Vein, and Pyralis. *All ages. 6:30 p.m. $17/$20. 6 Sixth St. W., St. Paul; 612-285-3112.* —MICHAEL MADDEN

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FOOD * DRINKS * MUSIC
June 28 . . . . . Phil Kitze 8:30-11:30pm
June 29 . . . . . Vibronauts 9:30pm-1am
June 3 . . . . . Chemistry Set 9:30pm-1am
July 1. . . . . Doug Otto & Friends 5-8pm
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7.7 DEUCES UP DANCE PARTY
7.12 WAYNE HANCOCK & SCOTT H. BIRAM
7.13 PRIVATE OATES: A TRIBUTE TO HALL & OATES
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June Residency: The Boot R&B Runes Av Vaskeri, The Fox Loves 9PM
THURSDAY, JUNE 28
Alicia Kay & Laura Hugo
BTTC Songwriter Showcase
6PM · $5
Bttc4: All The Pretty Horses, Black Widows, Gully Boys, DOALM
9PM · $5
FRIDAY, JUNE 29
Glitterbox LP Release Show
Catbath, Monica LaPlante, Sass
9PM · $8 DOS/$6 ADV
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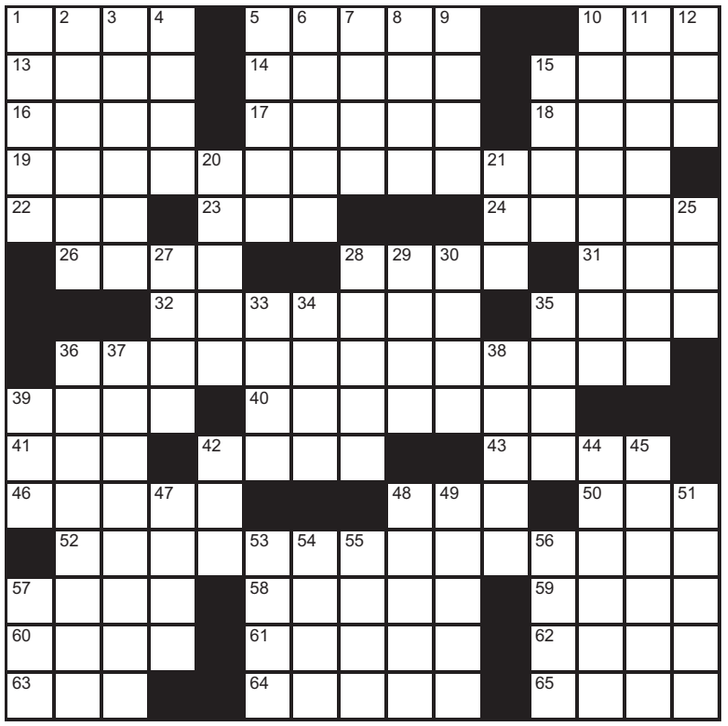

SKIP ROPE

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

1 Total ass-kicking
5 Picking your nose, e.g.
10 Make an appeal
13 "___ Electric" (Electric car news YouTube channel)
14 Top of the line
15 Did a jackknife
16 Polar opposite of a buzzcut
17 Helps out
18 Super OCD
19 "This is really important!"
22 "No, I'm serious!"
23 Nvidia's logo
24 "Blue Hotel" singer Chris
26 Very expensive
28 "Why is this happening to me?"
31 Brewer's no.
32 The Rainbow Bridge spans it
35 Time to grab a slice, say
36 Truck-driver who works for himself, e.g.
39 Where Scottish sheep may graze
40 Parisian houses
41 Tough mofos in '80s rap slang
42 ___ Stallyns (Bill & Ted's band)
43 Some mainframe processors
46 1983 comedy whose movie poster shows Mr. T holding a car door
48 Talks a load of crap
50 Card game where the player says its name on their penultimate move
52 It's really hot
57 ___ of America
58 Capital where pounds are spent
59 Barrel grp.
60 "Izzatso?"
61 By order of
62 "God: A Human History" author Aslan
63 Sloppy spot
64 Duane ___
65 Bastille Day seasons

Down

1 Prepare
2 Killed
3 Code name
4 All for it
5 Difficult to pick up
6 "The Play About the Baby" playwright
7 Quaff in a stein
8 Very small
9 Check your work
10 Festival where the Beastie Boys gave their last performance
11 "The Aristocats" voice actress
12 Solidify
15 Talking point?
20 Maumee Bay lake
21 Opening words
25 Relatives
27 William and Harry's aunt
28 DEA's job
29 ___ Technica (tech website)
30 Micronesian veggie
33 Film director Heckerling
34 Lady
35 Crash investigator: Abbr.
36 Diagram showing a business's hierarchy
37 Like Bugs, to Elmer
38 Black cuckoos
39 Physique
42 Pugilist's grp.
44 Animal, e.g.
45 Allergic reaction
47 With skill
48 Sired
49 In need of an ice pack, say
51 Some killer swimmers
53 St. where Pepsi was invented
54 The good life
55 Hoppy beverage
56 Ponder (over)
57 Criminal patterns, briefly

Last Week's Answer

I	S	L	E		V	E	S	T		A	M	P	U	P
B	E	A	M		E	X	P	O		R	E	E	S	E
M	E	S	A		N	C	A	A		T	H	R	E	E
	S	T	J	U	D	E		D	U	D		I	B	N
S	T	N		B	E	L	A		N	E	L	L	Y	
G	O	A	L	I	E		V	O	I	C	E	S		
T	I	M	I	D		K	E	P	T	O	N			
S	T	E	M		M	E	R	R	Y		T	E	T	E
			P	O	E	T	R	Y		L	I	N	E	R
		A	E	R	A	T	E		S	U	L	T	A	N
	G	S	T	A	R		D	E	U	X		A	C	E
M	R	C		T	A	P		G	R	E	T	N	A	
D	I	E	C	I		E	Y	R	E		O	G	R	E
M	E	N	L	O		R	E	E	L		A	L	T	A
A	R	D	E	N		K	A	T	Y		T	E	S	T

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the 44s
9:30pm : **lenz & frenz**

thu : june 28
9:30pm : **ben cook-feltz, hennepin county millionaires club, brent and byron**

fri : june 29
7pm : **laura and sean's movie and music trivia**
10pm : **the drug budget, holiday heart, mori mente**

sat : june 30
7pm : trivia mafia presents
331 drinkin' spelling bee
10pm : **technician, afraid of girls (cd release), the staboteurs**

sun : july 1
3-5pm : rezo city:
resonator guitar player series featuring
lonesome dan kase
8pm : **trivia mafia**

mon : july 2
8pm : **the roe family singers**
10pm : **doug otto and friends**

tue : july 3
7-9pm : t.e.e. tuesday early evening
francis gumm
9:30pm : 331 club and
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MONDAY, JULY 2
Mobley
9:30PM • BAR STAGE • 21+ • FREE
TUESDAY, JULY 3
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Your best ideas and soundest decisions will materialize as if by magic while you're lounging around doing nothing in a worry-free environment. So please make sure you have an abundance of relaxed slack and unhurried grace. Treat yourself to record-setting levels of comfort and self-care. Do whatever's necessary for you to feel as safe as you have ever felt. I realize these prescriptions might ostensibly clash with your fiery Aries nature. But if you meditate on them for even two minutes, I bet you'll agree they're exquisitely appropriate for you right now.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): "It is always what is under pressure in us, especially under pressure of concealment–that explodes in poetry." Taurus poet Adrienne Rich wrote that in an essay about the poet Emily Dickinson. She was describing the process of tapping into potent but buried feelings so as to create beautiful works of literature. I'm hoping to persuade you to take a comparable approach: to give voice to what's under pressure inside you, but in a graceful and constructive way that has positive results.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): Introductory offers are expiring. The bracing thrills of novelty must ripen into the cool enjoyments of maturity. It's time to finish the dress rehearsals so the actual show can begin. You've got to start turning big, bright fantasies into crisp, no-nonsense realities. In light of these shifting conditions, I suspect you can no longer use your good intentions as leverage, but must deliver more tangible signs of commitment. Please don't take this as a criticism, but the cosmic machinery in your vicinity needs some actual oil, not just your witty stories about the oil and the cosmic machinery.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): In the coming weeks, you will have an excellent chance to dramatically decrease your Wimp Quotient. As the perilously passive parts of your niceness toughen up, I bet you will encounter brisk possibilities that were previously off-limits or invisible to you. To ensure you remain in top shape for this delightful development, I think you should avoid entertainment that stimulates fear and pessimism. Instead of watching the latest flurry of demoralizing stories on Netflix, spend quality time summoning memories of the times in your life when you were unbeatable. For extra credit, pump your fist 10 times each day as you growl, "Victory is mine!"

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): It's not so bad to temporarily lose your bearings. What's bad is not capitalizing on the disruption that caused you to lose your bearings. So I propose that you regard the fresh commotion as a blessing. Use it as motivation to initiate radical changes. For example, escape the illusions and deceptions that caused you to lose your bearings. Explore unruly emotions that may be at the root of the superpowers you will fully develop in the future. Transform yourself into a brave self-healer who is newly receptive to a host of medicinal clues that were not previously accessible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Here's my list of demands: 1. Avoid hanging out with people who are unreceptive to your influence. 2. Avoid hanging out with people whose influence on you is mediocre or dispiriting. 3. Hang out with people who are receptive to your influence and whose influence on you is healthy and stimulating. 4. Influence the hell out of the people who are receptive to your influence. Be a generous catalyst for them. Nudge them to surpass the limits they would benefit from surpassing. 5. Allow yourself to be deeply moved by people whose influence on you is healthy and stimulating.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): "If I didn't define myself for myself, I would be crunched into other people's fantasies for me and eaten alive." Activist author Audre Lorde said that, and now, in accordance with your current astrological and psychological needs, I'm offering it to you. I realize it's a flamboyant, even extreme, declaration, but in my opinion, that's what is most likely to motivate you to do the right thing. Here's another splashy prompt, courtesy of philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre: "We only become what we are by the radical and deep-seated refusal of that which others have made us."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): André René Roussimoff, also known as André the Giant, was a French actor and professional wrestler. He was 7 feet, 4 inches tall and weighed 520 pounds. As you might imagine, he ate and drank extravagantly. On one festive occasion, he quaffed 119 bottles of beer in six hours. Judging from your current astrological indicators, Scorpio, I suspect you may be ready for a binge like that. JUST KIDDING! I sincerely hope you won't indulge in such wasteful forms of "pleasure." The coming days should be a time when you engage in a focused pursuit of uplifting and healthy modes of bliss. The point is to seek gusto and amusement that enhance your body, mind, and soul.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): On her 90th birthday, my Great-Aunt Zosia told me, "The best gift you can give your ego is to make it see it's both totally insignificant and totally important in the cosmic scheme of things." Jenna, my girlfriend when I was 19, was perhaps touting a similar principle when, after teasing and tormenting me for two hours, she scrawled on my bathroom mirror in lipstick, "Sometimes you enjoy life better if you don't understand it." Then there's my Zen punk friend Arturo, who says that life's goodies are more likely to flow your way if you "hope for nothing and are open to everything." According to my analysis of the astrological rhythms, these messages will help you make the most of the bewildering but succulent opportunities that are now arriving in your vicinity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): In accordance with the astrological beacons, I have selected two pieces of advice to serve as your guiding meditations during the next seven weeks. You might want to write them on a piece of paper that you will carry in your wallet or pocket. Here's the first, from businessman Alan Cohen: "Only those who ask for more can get more, and only those who know there is more, ask." Here's the second, from writer G. K. Chesterton: "We need to be happy in this wonderland without once being merely comfortable."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Ecologists in Mexico City investigated why certain sparrows and finches use humans' discarded cigarette butts in building their nests. They found that cellulose acetate, a chemical in the butts, protects the nests by repelling parasitic mites. Is there a metaphorical lesson you might draw from the birds' ingenious adaptation, Aquarius? Could you find good use for what might seem to be dross or debris? My analysis of the astrological omens says that this possibility is worth meditating on.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): I suspect that sometime soon you will come into possession of an enchanted potion or pixie dust or a pouch full of magic beans–or the equivalent. If and when that occurs, consider the following protocols: 1. Before you use your new treasure, say a prayer to your higher self, requesting that you will be guided to use it in such a way as to make yourself wiser and kinder. 2. When you use it, be sure it harms no one. 3. Express gratitude for it before and during and after using it. 4. Use it in such a way that it benefits at least one other person or creature in addition to you. 5. See if you can use it to generate the arrival of more pixie dust or magical beans or enchanted potion in the future. 6. When you use it, focus on wielding it to get exactly what you want, not what you sort of want or temporarily want.

freewillastrology@freewillastrology.com

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Bye Bye Baby

My husband suddenly doesn't want kids. Can I leave him?

Dan Savage

When I started dating my husband, he told me he had a low libido. I said I could deal with that. Then we got married, and suddenly he had no libido at all. He blamed health problems and assured me he was trying to address them. Despite his being diagnosed and successfully treated for multiple physical and mental health issues over time, things only got worse. After four years of marriage, the relationship has become strictly platonic. I can't even start a conversation about intimacy without him getting irritated. After we married, he also decided he no longer wanted children, and I eventually convinced myself it was probably for the best, given his health. We built our dream home, adopted a pet, and built an outwardly successful life together. I was, if not happy, at least complacent. Until I ran into an ex-boyfriend at a party. We split many years ago on good terms. We ended up talking about how important it is to him to have a biological child—something we talked about a lot when we were dating—and we got physically close, and that got me thinking about how much I missed sex with him. Ever since, I've been thinking about him. I think he was hinting that he wants me back, and right now that sounds like the answer to all my problems. But if not, I don't want to leave my hubby and lose the decent life we built together. Can I follow up and clarify with my ex before I break it off with my husband, or is that too much like cheating? Is it selfish of me to even consider leaving at this point?

INDECISIVELY MARRIED DAME
ON NEARING EXIT

Here's something I've never seen in my inbox: a letter from someone explaining how sex with their partner was infrequent, impersonal, uninspired, unimaginative, etc. at first but—holy moly—the sex got a fuck of a lot better after the wedding! Now, maybe that happens, but I can't imagine it happens often. So, if the sex isn't good at or very near the beginning, the passage of time and/or muttering of vows isn't going to fix it. If sex is important to you—if you wouldn't be content in a companionate marriage and/or don't want to wind up in divorce court one day—hold out for someone with whom you click sexually.

Okay, IMDONE, either your husband married you under false pretenses—putting out/in just enough to convince you to marry him and only pretending to want kids—or his good-faith efforts to resolve his health issues didn't help (at least where sex is concerned) and he changed his mind about being a dad (perhaps because he doesn't feel healthy enough to do the work of parenting). Either way, you're free to go. Even if the sex was good and your husband wanted 30 kids, you'd still be free to go.

Whether or not you stay, IMDONE, you should explore your options before making up your mind. So go ahead and call your ex and ask him if he'd like to get coffee with you—in a public place and shortly before an appointment you can't cancel. Your ex may have been hinting about wanting to get back together, or he may not want to get back together and was engaged in what he thought was a little harmless/nostalgic flirtation. So ask.

And while that convo could be regarded as pre-cheating or cheating-prep or even cheating-adjacent, it isn't cheating. You married someone who unilaterally changed the terms and conditions of your marriage—no sex, no kids. A husband who won't even discuss intimacy with you can't ask you to refrain from contemplating or even discussing intimacy with someone else.

Whether you have that convo with your ex or not, IMDONE, you need to ask yourself if you want to stay in this marriage. Ex-boyfriend or no ex-boyfriend, you can leave your husband. But there is also another option. It's the longest of long shots, I realize, but I'm going to toss it out there anyway: one or the other or both. Your husband would have to agree to an open relationship, and your ex-boyfriend—if, again, he's interested at all—would have to agree to it, too. Good luck.

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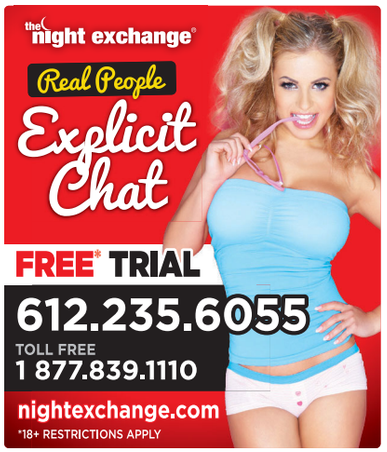
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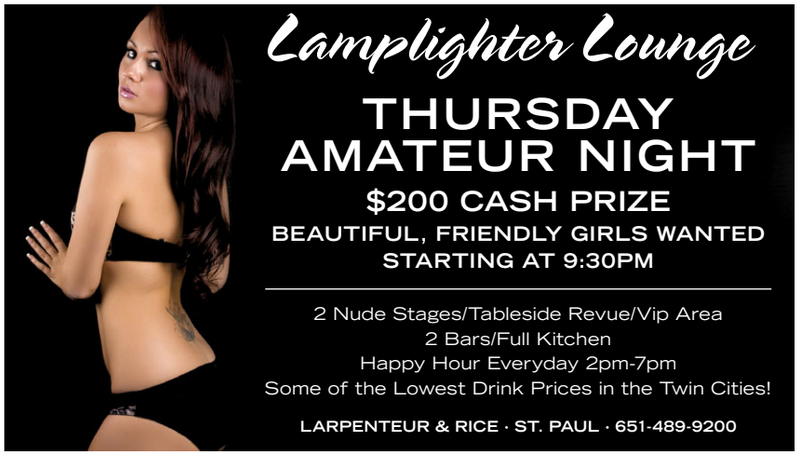
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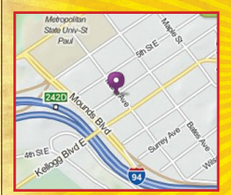

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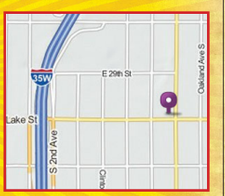

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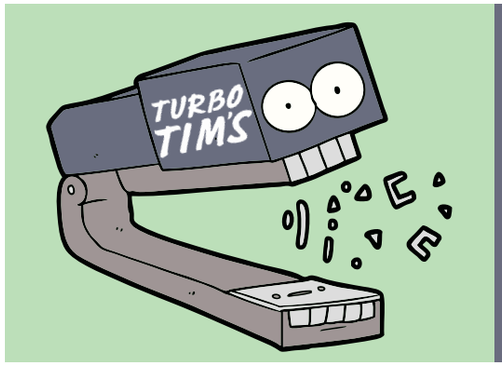

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